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8 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Magnetic Tape Used for Mission Recording  
and Duping on Project IDEALIST

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1. The new MINCOM duping equipment at ☐ is now considered completely operational. The former duping gear (A, B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub> racks) is no longer being used at that station.

2. The MINCOM duping gear has necessitated a change in the type of magnetic tape used for duping. The MINCOM equipment is designed to work best with a .5 mil pre-stressed tape (MMM Type 490), which replaces the formerly used 1.0 mil tape MP 10145.

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3. The Type 490 tape is also being used at ☐ for the mission recorders, MP 12570. The formerly used tape, MP 10145, was inferior to the Type 490 in several ways. First, the Type 490 tape is pre-stressed, minimizing the possibilities of tape stretching. Secondly, the Type 490 has superior lubricating qualities, and its use should promote longer recording-head life. Both tapes contain 3200 feet per 10-inch reel, so no change in mission-recording time results.

4. These changes will affect the following groups: NSA - (NSA gets the "originals" from the System III for all missions run by Detachment ☐ gets dupes of Systems VI tapes from all Detachment ☐ missions); PEC - (PEC gets original System VI tapes from all Detachment ☐ missions).

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5. No problem is anticipated in using the Type 490 tape on playback equipment presently in use by the groups mentioned in paragraph 4. No adjustment is expected to be mandatory in order to assure satisfactory operation, although some capstan pressure adjustment may be desirable to improve performance.

6. It is planned to run some additional tests with the MMM Type 490 tape at ☐ If performance of this tape proves to be equal in all respects to the MIL tape presently in use, the Type 490 tape will be standardized for use at both Detachment "G" and Detachment ☐ This standardized usage of a common-thickness tape of high quality for both duping and mission recording should permit a greater degree of equipment

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optimization than what has been previously possible, with a resultant improvement in overall equipment performance for recording, duping, and analysis.

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Chief, Communications Staff,  
OSA-DD/R

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